



ABSTRACT

OLLI Sketchy Abstractions Class 8



Wassily Kandinsky, Improvisation 27 (Garden of Love II), 1912

PKUBLIC DOMAIN

OLLI Sketchy Abstractions Class 7 – Abstraction

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Sketchy describes a rapidly executed freehand drawing that is not usually intended as a finished work.

Abstraction describes art that is unconcerned with the literal depiction of things from the visible world—it can, however, refer to an object or image which has been distilled from the real world.

Follow these links for more information:

[Abstract Art – what is it? \(per Wikipedia\)](#)

[History of Abstract Art \(per Wikipedia\)](#)

[Abstract Art Gallery:](#)

See the entire “Academy to Abstract - a timeline” on my website, [www.CW4SP | Art.](http://www.CW4SP.com)

Core Characteristics of Abstract Art (per MS Copilot)

Abstract visual art is characterized by a focus on visual elements rather than realistic representation of the world. Instead of depicting recognizable objects exactly as they appear, abstract artists use shapes, colors, lines, textures, and forms to communicate ideas, emotions, or experiences.^{1 2}

Core Characteristics of Abstract Visual Art

1. **Non-Representational or Simplified Imagery**

- Abstract art often avoids realistic depiction of people, objects, or landscapes.
- Subjects may be distorted, simplified, fragmented, or completely absent.^{3 4}

¹<https://www.britannica.com/art/abstract-art>

²<https://www.artlex.com/abstract-art-origins-characteristics-artists-artworks-and-influence/>

³<https://www.britannica.com/art/abstract-art>

⁴<https://www.artlex.com/abstract-art-origins-characteristics-artists-artworks-and-influence/>

2. Emphasis on Visual Elements

- The artwork's meaning is expressed through:
 - Color
 - Line
 - Shape
 - Form
 - Texture
 - Space and composition
- These elements become the primary subject of the artwork.^{5 6}

3. Emotional Expression

- Abstract artists frequently use visual elements to evoke feelings, moods, or psychological states rather than tell a literal story.^{7 8}

4. Freedom from Realism

- Abstract art breaks away from traditional rules of perspective, proportion, and realistic representation.
- Artists are free to experiment with unusual arrangements and visual relationships.^{9 10}

5. Subjective Interpretation

- Viewers are encouraged to find their own meanings.
- Different people may have very different responses to the same artwork.^{11 12}

6. Focus on Composition and Balance

- Even without recognizable subjects, abstract works rely on careful organization of shapes, colors, and forms to create harmony, rhythm, movement, or tension.^{13 14}

7. Experimentation and Creativity

- Abstract art often involves innovative techniques, spontaneous gestures, layering, dripping, or unconventional materials and processes.^{15 16}

⁵<https://www.britannica.com/art/abstract-art>

⁶<https://thinkyah.org/abstract-art/13-key-characteristics-of-abstract-art-that-will-change-how-you-see-modern-paintings/>

⁷<https://www.artlex.com/abstract-art-origins-characteristics-artists-artworks-and-influence/>

⁸<https://www.artingeneral.org/art-movements/abstract-art/>

⁹<https://thinkyah.org/abstract-art/13-key-characteristics-of-abstract-art-that-will-change-how-you-see-modern-paintings/>

¹⁰<https://www.marcgarrisonartist.com/post/what-defines-modern-abstract-art>

¹¹<https://www.artlex.com/abstract-art-origins-characteristics-artists-artworks-and-influence/>

¹²<https://www.teravarna.com/post/abstract-art-meaning-characteristics-types-and-objective>

¹³<https://www.marcgarrisonartist.com/post/what-defines-modern-abstract-art>

¹⁴<https://thinkyah.org/abstract-art/13-key-characteristics-of-abstract-art-that-will-change-how-you-see-modern-paintings/>

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¹⁶<https://thinkyah.org/abstract-art/13-key-characteristics-of-abstract-art-that-will-change-how-you-see-modern-paintings/>

In One Sentence

Abstract visual art uses color, line, shape, form, and texture to express ideas or emotions without depending on realistic representation, inviting personal interpretation and imaginative engagement.^{17 18}

¹⁷<https://www.britannica.com/art/abstract-art>

¹⁸<https://www.artlex.com/abstract-art-origins-characteristics-artists-artworks-and-influence/>

Suggested project – watch some of the videos at the bottom of the page

<https://www.cw4sp.com/sketch-abstract>

and create some sketchy abstract drawings!